



FEMA

Educating about Volcanic Hazards Community Outreach Program

Hilo, HI - The program is very popular with students and teachers, with yearly return invitations issued to the presenters. As time progressed, the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes (CSAV) became a regular part of the presentations at the Keakealani Outdoor Education Center (KOEK) in Volcano, Hawaii, with approximately six visits per month.

The programs are Public Seminars; Student Education Series visits; Teacher Training sessions; Community Associations; and Islands Reached (Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu). Each teacher presented ten lessons incorporating the hazards/preparedness message to their respective classes during the year that the training sessions were held in their county. It's intended that once the class is in their syllabus, it would be offered every year thereafter. Teacher training presentations are structured with members of the community attending.

Established in 1989, CSAV is a training and outreach program located on the Big Island and operates under the auspices of the University of Hawaii (UH), Hilo. The professional staff includes UH faculty and US Geological Survey scientists assigned to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. The Center's mission is to provide training and information on natural hazards that occur in Hawaii and worldwide. Program delivery is through public outreach, including visits to schools and the presentation of public lectures and symposia, various program specific presentations on volcanic hazards monitoring and response, programs to train educators and production of public information programs relating to natural hazards preparedness, response, and mitigation.

The program was initiated on the Big Island and subsequently exported to the other islands through their respective UH Campuses. Dr. Donald Thomas, CSAV Director, conceived the process, identified the target audiences and through his leadership is responsible for the programs successes to date.

The process is designed to reach a broad cross-section of Hawaii's population base. This is accomplished through public seminars, by taking the program to community associations, and by educating students in the grades 4, 6 and 8, thereby instilling an awareness of the multiple natural hazards and the resulting transfer of the knowledge to other family members. This has a beneficial by-product in that the information is disseminated to residents from broad socio-economic and geographic backgrounds.

In addition to presenting information at Big Island schools, CSAV also makes regular presentations at KOEK. These are multi-day presentations on earth sciences and ecology to 6th graders from schools throughout the State. The presentation focuses on volcanic and lava flow hazards. School presentations center on earthquake and tsunami hazards for fourth grade students, and eighth grade students are exposed to information relating to hurricanes and flash floods. In order to appeal to the intellectual capacities of the fourth graders the instructional medium is through hands-on participation and videos. The older student curriculum consists of lectures and video presentations.



State-wide,
Hawaii



Quick Facts

Sector:

Public

Cost:

\$341,166.00 (Actual)

Primary Activity/Project:

Education/Outreach/Public Awareness

Primary Funding:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)